

Facts About Exubera

What is Exubera?

Exubera[®] (insulin human [rDNA origin]) Inhalation Powder is a prescription medication that contains a rapid-acting, dry powder human insulin that is inhaled normally through the mouth into the lungs, using the handheld Exubera[®] Inhaler. When used as a mealtime insulin, the dose of Exubera should be given within 10 minutes before a meal.

Exubera is the first inhaled and non-injectable insulin option in the United States since the introduction of insulin more than 80 years ago.

Exubera is FDA-approved for the treatment of adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus. Patients with type 2 diabetes may use Exubera alone as an alternative to rapid-acting insulin injections or diabetes pills, or in combination with diabetes pills or longer-acting insulins. Patients with type 1 diabetes will use Exubera in combination with longer-acting injected insulin.

How does Exubera work?

Exubera is a mealtime insulin. After a blister of Exubera insulin is inserted into the Exubera[®] Inhaler, a patient pumps the inhaler handle and presses a button, causing the insulin to be released in a cloud into the Exubera[®] Inhaler Chamber. A patient breathes in normally through the mouth, sending the insulin into the lungs, where it is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream to help reduce blood sugar levels.

The Exubera[®] Inhaler, when closed, is about the size of an eyeglass case, weighs only four ounces and is portable. The innovative handheld device was designed for ease of use and does not need batteries or electricity to operate. It consistently delivers the prescribed dose and does not require a special breathing technique.

Why is the lung an effective way to deliver insulin into the bloodstream?

The lungs have a very large and permeable surface area which offers a rapid and efficient way to transport molecules such as insulin into the bloodstream.



How were the efficacy and safety of Exubera studied?

The efficacy and safety profile of Exubera was studied in more than 2,500 adult patients with type 1 and 2 diabetes, for an average duration of 20 months.

Exubera was found to be as effective as short-acting insulin, and to significantly improve blood sugar control when added to diabetes pills.

In clinical trials, many patients using Exubera reported greater treatment satisfaction than patients taking insulin by injection. Significantly more patients who had used both Exubera and insulin injections or diabetes pills reported an overall preference for Exubera.

When will Exubera be available?

Exubera will be available for patients by mid-year. During this period, Pfizer will provide health care providers with comprehensive information, education and customer support about Exubera.

How will Exubera be available?

The Exubera insulin will be available in 1 milligram and 3 milligram blisters. An individual patient's dosage will be determined by the treating health care professional based on factors such as current blood sugar control, and duration of diabetes, as well as dietary and exercise habits.

The Exubera® CareKit will include all the device components, including the Exubera® Inhaler, a replacement inhaler chamber and two Exubera® Release Units (a component of the inhaler that facilitates the release of the insulin).

What is the price of Exubera?

The price of Exubera has not been set.



Important Safety Information

Exubera is a prescription medicine that contains insulin powder that is breathed in (inhaled) through the mouth using the Exubera® Inhaler. It is used to treat adults with diabetes. It helps to control high blood sugar.

Patients should not take Exubera if they smoke or have stopped smoking less than six months prior to starting Exubera treatment. If a patient starts smoking or resumes smoking, he or she must stop using Exubera and see a health care provider about a different treatment.

Exubera may affect lung function so patients need to have their lungs tested before starting Exubera, and later during treatment, as directed by a health care provider. Exubera is not recommended for people that have chronic lung disease (such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or emphysema). Also, Exubera should not be used at all by people with unstable or poorly controlled lung disease.

As with all forms of insulin, a possible side effect of Exubera is low blood sugar levels, which is why it is important to check blood sugar as advised by a health care provider.

Like all medicines, Exubera can cause side effects. Exubera may cause a cough, dry mouth, or chest discomfort. These are not all the side effects that can happen with Exubera. Ask a health care provider or pharmacist for more information.

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Patients and health care providers can call 1-800-EXUBERA and register to receive more information about Exubera when it is available.

